

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00

INT-05 AGRE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-02 /093 W

-----072858 181519Z /44

O 181450Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1781

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4072

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA, MEETING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATING
COMMITTEE

1. GRAHAM AND I WERE CALLED ON BY THE SIX-MEMBER PRIVATE
SECTOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES
FROM INDUSTRY, MINING, TOBACCO, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.
AS IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH THE GROUP THEY STRESSED
THEIR DESIRE FOR SETTLEMENT. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THEIR
CONCERN OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION HAS CLEARLY
HEIGHTENED. IT WAS MOST DRAMATICALLY PUT BY BULLOCK,
REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO GROWERS, WHO SAID THAT THERE
WOULD HAVE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE
SITUATION BY OCTOBER BEFORE MANY TOBACCO GROWERS
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WOULD BE WILLING TO PLANT NEXT YEAR'S CROP. THERE IS
AN OBSERVABLE AND DELIBERATE CAMPAIGN BEING
MOUNTED BY THE GUERRILLAS AGAINST THE LABOR FORCE ON
TOBACCO FARMS. (BULLOCK DESCRIBED THE FORCE AS ABOUT
45 PERCENT RHODESIAN AFRICAN AND 55 PERCENT FOREIGN AFRICAN
SPLIT BETWEEN MALAWIANS AND MOZAMBICANS.) AT THE MOMENT
THIS CAMPAIGN IS MOST EFFECTIVE IN THE NORTH AND EAST

AND IS NOW SPREADING INTO THE ZIPRA AREAS. ALL THE MEN AGREED THAT THE FAILURE TO PLANT NEXT YEAR'S CROP BY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TOBACCO FARMERS WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE REST OF THE ECONOMY.

2. THE GROUP ASKED WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO TO HELP SUPPORT AN ALL PARTIES MEETING WHICH THEY FELT CRUCIAL FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WE SUGGESTED THEY MAKE CLEAR TO AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE WHITE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND THE VIEWS THEY HAD EXPRESSED TO US.

EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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